



# Blended Learning

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## Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has required educational settings to respond quickly to mitigate the impact of the pandemic threat, isolation and lockdown which led to the need to swiftly implement procedures for the management of the risk of infection and to ensure that educational provision could continue. Leicester City Primary PRU's Remote & Home Learning policy outlines the provision that will be made, and includes some guidance on the role of pupils, teachers and parents.

Leicester City Primary PRU are fully aware that these are exceptional times and would like to make it clear that the completion of work is not compulsory. This document seeks to inform and guide families, rather than impose expectations or demands. Each family is unique and because of this, should approach home learning in a way which suits their individual needs.

## Process in the event of a local or national outbreak

If nationally or locally, eg a whole education authority or council ward, sees a spike in infection rates that is resulting in localised community spread of a disease such as Coronavirus, Leicester City Primary PRU will work closely with appropriate authorities to decide which measures to implement to help contain the spread. The Department for Education will be involved in decisions at a local and national level affecting a geographical area, and will work closely with Leicester City Primary PRU to support our setting to follow the health advice. PHE health protection team may advise a school or number of schools to close temporarily to help control transmission. This may involve remaining open only for vulnerable children and the children of key workers, and providing remote education for all other pupils through both Microsoft Teams and Google Classroom, along with other accessible resources such as websites or printed resources sent home.

### **Individuals or identified groups self-isolating**

Where individuals or groups of pupils are self-isolating either in response to contracting the virus outside of the school, or in response to school's safety procedures where an individual or group may have been identified as a risk, remote education will be provided. Supporting work packs may be sent home or delivered by staff.

Pupil's wellbeing will be monitored through weekly phone calls by a member of the class team, a member of the leadership team, and also by a behaviour mentor where necessary. Additional support and contact will be provided for identified vulnerable children, eg Looked After Children or those involved with children's social care.



## **School closure**

In the event of needing to close Leicester City Primary PRU, parents/carers will be informed via phone call, text message and email. Information will also be available on our website [www.pru.leicester.sch.uk](http://www.pru.leicester.sch.uk) and our closed Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/FriendsofthePRU/>.

## **Closure due to staff absence**

It is possible that for a period of time, Leicester City Primary PRU will be open but with a higher than normal number of staff absent. If high staff absence does become the case we will do everything we can to remain open, but on the grounds of health and safety we may have to take the decision to close. However, this would always be as a last resort.

## **Remote education support**

Where a class, group or small number of students need to self-isolate, or there is a local lockdown requiring pupils to remain at home, remote education will be available.

In developing and continuing to improve upon our remote education, Leicester City Primary PRU will:

- Ensure our remote education has a clear, sequenced curriculum which supports pupils in accessing high-quality online and offline resources / teaching videos, and is linked to our curriculum expectations.
- Ensure that resources provided to pupils are age and stage appropriate, and support their learning and wellbeing needs.
- Ensure that staff are trained in the use of our online education and learning platforms.
- Ensure that pupils who do not have access to the internet and are classed as vulnerable and disadvantaged (including those with a social worker) will have access to laptops/tablets on loan from Leicester City Primary PRU.
- Provide printed resources, such as worksheets or reading books, for pupils who are not eligible for laptops/tables or for safeguarding reasons cannot have access to the internet.
- Work alongside our families to support our pupils in accessing remote/home learning without causing undue distress for our most vulnerable and complex learners.

## **Planning and delivery of remote and home education**

When planning remote and home learning, Leicester City Primary PRU expects teachers to:



- Plan a programme that is of equivalent length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school, including weekly contact with the class staff team.
- Set learning and wellbeing tasks in line with their group's timetable, so that they have meaningful work to complete across the week in a number of different subjects.
- Avoid an over-reliance on longer-term projects or internet research activities, and consider the extent of resources available to pupils within their homes, eg access to a printer or devices.
- Provide frequent, clear explanations of new content or skills, delivered either directly by a teacher, or through high quality curriculum resources and/or videos.
- Regularly check work and monitor progress in line with our Marking and Feedback policy.
- Where possible, wear PRU workwear when recording videos or taking part in video calls.
- **All** video calls or live streaming **must be recorded** for safeguarding reasons.
- Not place significant demands on parents/carers for help or support with their child's learning.
- Respond, within reason, promptly to requests for support from families at home. This should be done via email using the group email addresses, and during normal working hours (8:30am – 4:30pm)
- Seek support with the use of technology where required by emailing [support@capitalbytes.com](mailto:support@capitalbytes.com) in the first instance. The senior leadership team may also be able to provide support.

Leicester City Primary PRU expects our families (both pupils and parents/carers) to:

- Try and maintain a regular and familiar routine, along with finding an appropriate place to work, as it is beneficial to pupil wellbeing.
- Check emails and mobile phones for work and messages regularly. Please bear in mind that staff may be calling from home and possibly using their personal mobiles with their number blocked / no caller ID.
- Regularly check our school website [www.pru.leicester.sch.uk](http://www.pru.leicester.sch.uk) for updates, copies of letters, useful websites and online resources etc.
- Get in touch with their child's class team on the group emails should anything be unclear.
  - [owls@pru.leicester.sch.uk](mailto:owls@pru.leicester.sch.uk)
  - [eagles@pru.leicester.sch.uk](mailto:eagles@pru.leicester.sch.uk)
  - [hawks@pru.leicester.sch.uk](mailto:hawks@pru.leicester.sch.uk)
  - [falcons\\_kestreels@pru.leicester.sch.uk](mailto:falcons_kestreels@pru.leicester.sch.uk)
- Keep work completed at home safe, so that it can be brought back to school when it is safe to do so.



- Inform us of any issues accessing work, both online and in printed work packs, so that alternative solutions can be considered. This will be discussed on a case-by-case basis.
- Contact the senior leadership team if there are any issues which the class team are unable to resolve.
  - [plt@pru.leicester.sch.uk](mailto:plt@pru.leicester.sch.uk)

### **Safeguarding and remote and home education**

Statutory guidance on online safety can be found in Annex C of [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020](#) and in Leicester City Primary PRU's Child Protection & Safeguarding policy. These must be read and adhered to by all staff prior to engaging in the delivery of remote and home education. Parents/carers must also be supported in understanding e-safety and how to effectively monitor their child's use of the internet and online activity.

### **Recovery after a pandemic or public health threat**

After any event, Leicester City Primary PRU will evaluate and address any issues to support pupil and staff recovery. This will require consideration of pupil or staff wellbeing, including physical, emotional and mental health, any potential impact on education, and building / school site conditions.

For periods of lost learning where remote access or other home learning resources could not be accessed, teachers will need to baseline assess their pupils' core abilities upon their return to school to determine if direct interventions are needed, or if gaps can be addressed in a timely manner through our recovery curriculum offer. Pupils and staff may be reintegrated back into school on either a part-time or full-time basis depending on the length of time away from school.

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Remote learning plan Sept 2020



## Appendix 1

### Remote Learning Plan

*Plan to support learning during partial or full lockdown, or periods of isolation.*

*This document should be read alongside the PRU 'Blended Learning' policy.*

Pupils at Leicester City Primary PRU often arrive having been out of their mainstream lessons, and sometimes even school, for quite some time. This has impacted on their learning to the extent that they are usually significantly behind ARE and have gaps in their learning.

The information sharing and assessment process undertaken on referral, followed by a period of assessment once they start at the PRU facilitates a quick identification of 'where they are at now' and a gap analysis.

During the COVID-19 lockdown, Leicester City Primary PRU supported children at home via email, work packs, phone calls and home visits. Many of the children struggled with the loss of structure, routine and boundaries, making it difficult for parents to support home learning effectively.

At Leicester City Primary PRU many of our pupils do not have devices available to use at home. In March 2020, as a school we did not have the infrastructure, or skills to be able to deliver e-learning. Now, the ICT infrastructure is new, and robust, affording full coverage of staff. There is also capacity to loan devices to children who may need them if required to learn at home.

This plan is three-pronged to allow the development of staff skillsets around the use of e-learning. This recognises the work that will be required for staff and pupils to be able to reach a point where a full programme of online learning can be delivered.

Staff will be provided with a home learning resource pack to support delivery of lessons from home.

The resource pack will include:

- Small whiteboard and pens
- Paper and pens
- Laptop
- Subscription to relevant websites eg Twinkl
- Access to apps / useful online resource banks

F2F lessons will be delivered using Microsoft Teams. Sessions will be recorded for safeguarding reasons.

Members of the leadership team will 'drop in' to lessons for the purposes of quality assurance and safeguarding check-ins.



A	B	C
<p><b>Weekly phonecalls:</b> Mon- class teacher Wed- Behaviour Mentor Fri- Leadership link</p> <p><b>Work packs</b> to support those without ICT capability / to supplement online.</p> <p><b>Email contact</b>, supplying worksheets, directing to websites / youtube video clips etc to support learning.</p> <p><b>Microsoft Teams sessions</b> to facilitate F2F, <b>where possible.</b> Sessions to be recorded.</p> <p><b>Aim for 3 sessions a day:</b> Phonics- 20 mins PSHE Eng / Mat</p>	<p><b>Weekly phonecalls:</b> Wed- Behaviour Mentor Fri- Leadership link</p> <p><b>Work packs</b> to support those without ICT capability / to supplement online.</p> <p><b>Microsoft Teams sessions</b> to facilitate F2F. Sessions to be recorded.</p> <p><b>3 sessions a day:</b> Phonics 10-10.20 PSHE / Circle Time / Zones of Regulation 11-11.30 Eng or Mat 30-40 mins PM</p>	<p><b>Weekly phonecalls:</b> Wed- Behaviour Mentor Fri- Leadership link</p> <p><b>Microsoft Teams sessions</b> to facilitate F2F. Sessions to be recorded.</p> <p><b>Google classrooms</b> used to plan and deliver learning.</p> <p><b>3 sessions a day:</b> Phonics 10-10.20 PSHE / Circle Time / Zones of Regulation 11-11.30 Eng or Mat 30-40 mins PM</p>